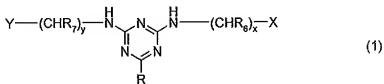


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): A method of increasing the depth of shade of dyed natural or synthetic polyamide fibre materials, which comprises treating the fibre material before, during or after dyeing with a liquor comprising a compound of formula (1)



wherein R is halogen, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, C₅-C₂₄ aryl, C₆-C₃₆ aralkyl, -OR₁ or -NR₁R₂, R₁ and R₂ being, each independently of the other, hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, mercapto, carboxyl, sulfo, C₁-C₁₂ alkylsulfonyl, C₅-C₂₄ arylsulfonyl or C₆-C₃₆ aralkylsulfonyl groups, C₅-C₂₄ aryl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, carboxyl, sulfo, C₁-C₁₂ alkylsulfonyl, C₅-C₂₄ arylsulfonyl or C₆-C₃₆ aralkylsulfonyl groups, or C₆-C₃₆ aralkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, carboxyl, sulfo, C₁-C₁₂ alkylsulfonyl, C₅-C₂₄ arylsulfonyl or C₆-C₃₆ aralkylsulfonyl groups,

X and Y are, each independently of the other, mercapto, or -NR₃R₄ or -N⁺R₃R₄R₅-A⁻, wherein R₃ and R₄ and R₅ are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂ alkyl and A⁻ is chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate or methylsulfate,

R₆ and R₇ are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂ alkyl,

and x and y are, each independently of the other, a number from 2 to 12.

2. (original): A method according to claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein x and y are the same.

3. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein x and y are 3, 4 or 6.
4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein X and Y are the same.
5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein R is a group of formula $-\text{NH}-(\text{CHR}_8)_z-\text{Z}$ wherein R_8 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl, Z is hydroxy, mercapto or amino, and z is a number from 2 to 12.
6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (1) is present in the liquor in an amount of from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the weight of the polyamide fibre material.
7. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the fibre material is treated before the dyeing.
8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the treatment with the liquor comprising the compound of formula (1) is carried out at a temperature of from 20 to 130°C.
9. (original): A method according to claim 7, wherein the pretreatment is carried out at a pH of from 7 to 13.
10. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the treatment with the liquor comprising the compound of formula (1) is carried out in accordance with the exhaust process.

11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the polyamide fibre material is in the form of microfibres.

12. (original): A textile adjuvant comprising an aqueous solution of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1.